



FEMA

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Disaster News

SOME PRIVATE NONPROFITS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR DISASTER SNOW ASSISTANCE

SMYRNA, DE – As a result of the severe winter storms and snowstorms that blanketed portions of the State of Delaware in February, a Federal disaster declaration was signed by the President. Under the declaration, certain private nonprofit organizations (PNPs) may be eligible to receive Federal assistance when they meet certain Public Assistance (PA) criteria.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) new Snow Assistance and Severe Winter Storm Policy, effective November 2, 2009, makes Federal funding available to the State of Delaware, eligible local governments and certain PNP organizations on a cost-sharing basis for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities that were damaged by the storms.

FEMA Community Relations Officers are working with the Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) to contact PNPs to help them determine eligibility and begin the Request for Public Assistance (RPA) process. Private nonprofit organizations must meet one of the following basic requirements in order to request PA:

- An effective ruling letter from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service on IRS letterhead, granting tax exemption under Section 501 (a), (d) or (e) of the IRS Code of 1954 as amended, or
- State certification that the organization is a non-revenue producing nonprofit entity organized or doing business under State law.

Private nonprofit organizations meeting one of the basic requirements may submit the RPA and a PNP questionnaire for reimbursement for eligible costs associated with the storms. Additional documents may be requested by the State to complete the process, depending on the PNP and the type of costs incurred as a direct result of the storms. The additional documentation may include:

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Some Private Nonprofits may be eligible for Federal Snow Assistance, P.2

- Proof of certification it is accredited, if an educational facility is asking for reimbursement.
- Legal proof an organization is a Parent Organization, if it is applying for reimbursement for facilities under its umbrella.
- A list of the facilities owned or leased, if multiple facilities are used by the applicant.
- A copy of the insurance policy, if the facility incurred structural damage.

Once the organization is identified as an eligible PNP, State and FEMA Public Assistance Coordinators will assist the PNP write a Project Worksheet to document costs.

If a PNP is requesting reimbursement for structural damage, it may have to apply for a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) loan first, then the following may occur:

- The PNP is approved for an SBA loan and the loan fully covers eligible damages from the disaster event. No assistance from FEMA is available.
- The PNP is approved for an SBA loan, but the loan does not fully cover eligible damages. The excess damages are eligible for FEMA assistance.
- The PNP is approved for an SBA loan but does not accept the loan. The amount of FEMA assistance will be reduced by the amount of the approved loan.

For further information, call Ed Durst, State Public Assistance Officer at DEMA, 302-659-3362.

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FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.